

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND

The limited but well-coordinated one-hour strike yesterday demonstrated that the free trade unions command broad support that the regime cannot afford to ignore.

To give substance to its contention that the activities of the new unions are being publicized, the government gave factual media coverage to the strikes. Greater access to the media had been cited by union leaders as one objective of their strike.

Last-minute maneuvering within the union leadership revealed divisions over holding the strike and, perhaps, over general tactics toward the regime as well. [REDACTED] a representative of union chairman Walesa approached the Gdansk party leadership on Thursday with a proposal to cancel the strike. A settlement was reached that included a television appearance by Walesa and regime agreement to form a commission to work out procedures for the unions to have greater access to the media.

Although the union leadership vetoed the agreement, Walesa may have prevailed on another issue. After the strike, he told Western journalists that earlier threats to stage a general strike on 20 October have been "officially withdrawn."

Union leaders will now have to turn their attention to several "objections" that the Warsaw court has reportedly raised to their union's application for official status. The two most serious issues concern that union's effort to be recognized as a national organization and its apparent failure to mention the leading role of the party in its charter; neither issue will be resolved easily.

The successful strike has provided an unsettling backdrop to the two-day Central Committee meeting that begins today. The union's demonstration of strength and determination will heighten divisions within that body. The fact of the strike will have reinforced the fears of those committee members who oppose the pursuit of a working relationship with the free trade union leaders, while its effectiveness and limited character will convince others that they can and must come to a more workable understanding.

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